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THE SOCIAL QUESTION IN FRANCE.

The Great Question which agitates France is the Social Question—Shall it be permitted or not to Modify the Present Structure of Society?—Tables of the Condition of the Working Classes of the Lower Seine and of the North.

Correspondence of "The Independent."

PARIS, March 24, 1849.

Many questions have been agitated in France within the year past, and are still agitated; many parties have been and are now contending; at bottom, however, there is but one vital question, and with regard to that question two opposing parties. That question is *the Social question*, and those two parties that of the *defenders* and that of the *enemies* of the present constitution of society. These two parties without doubt are subdivided each into several schools widely diverse, but we can group all these schools around two centers:—to preserve and strengthen the organization of modern society, or to change fundamentally its present basis and to inaugurate a new social state. Society as it is is defended by those who possess anything, and by that I intend not only the favored of fortune, but almost all those who have any interest in capital or who have the means of certain employment; it is assailed by those who possess nothing but their arms, living in continual uncertainty with respect to the morrow, as well as in privation of the comforts of life and often of the morsel of bread necessary to sustain their miserable existence and that of their families. The *first* say to the second: "Do as we do; work; get money, and you can have also your share of the good things that wealth procures." The *second* reply, "We would gladly be able like you to enjoy the good things of life; but when we work, our hard toil procures for us nothing but a little black bread; and too often work fails, and then we are subjected to all the horrors of abject poverty. This diversion is not just." The *first* rejoin, "If you are hungry we will give you alms, and if you are sick we will put you in a hospital." But, say the *second*, "It is not alms that we wish, but sure work, and a remuneration for it sufficient of itself to enable us and ours to live."—"You demand too much, and society cannot do more than it is doing. Of what do you complain? Are you not free?"—"Yes, free to die of hunger! and if that is the utmost offer of your society, it must be overthrown and replaced by another."—"Eternal enemy of order! do you forget that society can crush you as a dangerous reptile?"—"The order of which you speak is a frightful disorder. I know well that that society which ought to be a mother to all replies to the complaints of the poor by grapeshot and transportation; but no matter, I will fight, and I would as lief die by a ball as be slowly consumed by humiliation and misery." Such is the dialogue a thousand times repeated every day in journals, in clubs, in conversations in public places, in the street, or the work-shop.

Perhaps at first you will be disposed immediately to make common cause with the first speaker, and to regard as greatly exaggerated, to say the least, the complaints of the second. That would not surprise me. Permit me, however, to ask of you a little patience, and a more profound study of the state of things. Then, only, will you be able to give an opinion justly. I wish to draw aside the veil which covers the frightful picture of the misery of our working-classes, especially in the north of France. The facts that I shall cite cannot be suspected of being exaggerated, for I shall draw them only from an inquiry into the condition of the working-classes in France during the year 1848, an inquiry made and published by the order of the Academy of Moral and Political Science, a learned Society having an official character, belonging of right and in fact to the class of those who are satisfied with the present social constitution. In view of the dreadful results to labor and the laboring classes of the financial reverses consequent upon the last Revolution, the Academy of Moral and Political Science commissioned one of its members to visit the principal manufacturing districts of France, in order to ascertain the exact condition of the working-classes. Mr. Blanqui (a brother of the Blanqui who is criminated in the political affair of 15th May), a member of the Department of Political Economy and Statistics, has published the results of that long and careful investigation, which extended to our principal houses of industry. From this impartial work I shall extract certain statements, of the accuracy of which no one can have the least doubt. It is only necessary, for the better appreciation of certain points, that the reader should bear in mind that the author of this important memoir is an Economist, and an avowed opponent of all Socialism, and of any essential change in the present organization of society.

The general distress, according to M. Blanqui, bears with very unequal weight upon different members of the industrial family. There is a vast difference between the peasant who works free in the open air, and is owner of the cottage in which he was born, and the workman in a manufactory, tied to the machinery of his trade—often the insolvent tenant of a filthy and unhealthy apartment. We must no longer confound the ingenious workmen of the Jura and Picardy—tillers of the soil in summer, watchmakers and artisans in winter, with the pale inhabitants of the cellars of Lille, heaped together pell-mell in immense buildings, the very sight of which excites horror. Even in the midst of Paris, the intelligent workmen and sedentaries of the Rue St. Martin have nothing in common with the strolling rag-pickers of the Rue Mouffetard and the Faubourg St. Jacques. But a general and lamentable fact worthy of notice, is, that we daily see disappearing the smaller work shops and home employment. Industry organizes itself in immense establishments, which resemble barracks or convents. The workmen are crowded by hundreds, sometimes by thousands, in these laboratories, where labor is exposed to all the vicissitudes of the variations of price and demand. Their sufferings soon take the character of a public calamity, and manifest themselves through those threatening grievances which trouble the peace of cities.

The cities of Rouen, Lille and Lyons, specially devoted to the manufacture of the fabrics of thread, silk, linen and cotton, present under every view the same economical and social aspect. Labor is generally organized in great isolated manufactories or in little workshops grouped together, and the population there is agglomerated to the highest degree of concentration. The unhealthiness of such quarters is a fact long established, and illustrates in a most affecting manner the deplorable condition of a part of the population. To this painful item, especially in the departments of spinning and weaving, we must add the sad and almost irresistible temptation of confining children to the premises of the workshop, and thus depriving them of the benefit of elementary instruction, even when the State offers it to them gratuitously.

It is easy to understand the frightful disturbance which was produced in 1848, in the midst of a laboring population so huddled together, by the suspension of work which always follows political revolutions. In the single city of Rouen, more than thirty thousand workmen suddenly found themselves without employment, and were thus plunged into the most dreadful misery. The two evils which most afflict the laboring population in the department of Lower Seine, (of which Rouen is the chief place,) are the insalubrity of dwellings, and the abuse of employing children in the manufactories. It is thus that the evil perpetuates itself from generation to generation, attacking infancy in its flower, and producing a wretched, sickly population, which is continually degenerating in physical and moral vigor. The frightful condition of the dwellings of laborers in the city of Rouen demands a radical reform in the name of decency and humanity. There exists at Rouen *cours*, inappropriately honored with the name of dwellings, where the human species breathe a vitiated air which kills instead of sustaining life, which attacks infants at the mother's breast, and which leads them to a premature decrepitude by way of the most afflictive diseases, scrofula, rheumatism, and pulmonary phthisic. The poor children who fall into vice in these deadly abodes end by sinking into imbecility. When they reach twenty years of age there are not ten in a hundred capable of being soldiers when the conscription is made; poverty, privations, cold, bad air, moral depravity, have rendered them emaciated, withered corrupt. The very names of these accursed quarters serve only to excite disgust: it is the *street of filth*, the alley of *the sink* and such like, of which the mysteries would be unknown, were it not that some benevolent persons, for the sake of penetrating them, brave the more repugnant living beings. One can enter these houses only through filthy alleys, narrow and dark, where often a man cannot hold himself up. These alleys serve as the bed of a fetid stream surcharged with green water and with filth of all kinds, which flows in from all the stories, and which remains in the little badly-paved courts in pestilential pools. One ascends by spiral stair-cases, without railing, without light, covered with inequalities produced by caked dung, and thus reaches at length the miserable lodgings, low, poorly enclosed, and almost always unprovided with furniture and house-keeping utensils. The domestic accoutrements of the wretched occupants of these lodgings consist of a litter of straw spread in the black dirt, without sheet or coverlid; the young children sleep on a bag of ashes, but the rest of the family tumble pell-mell into this filthy litter. Thousands and thousands of men exist thus among us in a condition worse than the savage state, for savages at least have the air! These miserable lodgings cost from 60 centimes (11 cents) to 3 francs (37 cents) per week. There is almost no ventilation by the windows, and the floors are sometimes so damp that the walls are hung with moss. It is in such lodgings that the dissolution of the family commences, and all the evils that follow in its train. The father hastens to flee from these uninhabitable places and seeks in the wine-shop an asylum from the horrors which they inspire. The mother alone lives there with her children, until hunger forces her to abandon them to the care of one another, or to some charitable neighbor.

Next to the improvement of dwellings, the law should take cognizance of the labor of children, and restrain the abuses of which they are the victims in the greater part of the manufacturing villages in the west of France. The most careful witnesses testify that in the single department of the Lower Seine there are at this hour more than 30,000 children who receive absolutely no instruction, and it is this lamentable neglect falls especially upon the young female. The workshop everywhere carries on a severe and incessant war against the school, and one is sure of finding in the service of the manufacturers the child who needs the call of the teacher. It is easy to imagine to what and influences children are thus exposed without defense against the rigorous exactions of labor, and against that precocious demoralization of which the manufactories are the seat. Their bodies and their souls suffer together. How often does one see premature invalids already mutilated through carelessness among the machinery, or stunted by misfortunes foreign to their time of life, in consequence of long night-watchings and excessive toil!

If from the department of Lower Seine we pass to that of the North, (ancient Flanders,) we have a more striking spectacle of the miseries of our social state as it has been transformed little by little, for the last half century, under the influence of the manufacturing system. This one department, peopled by more than a million of inhabitants, is regarded as the richest of France—but neither the richness of its soil, nor the perfection of its culture, nor the variety of its industrial occupations, nor the marvelous progress which these have recently made, have availed to save it from the fatal taint of the leprosy of pauperism. It is especially within the walls of Lille, the chief place of this department of the North, that are concentrated the moral evils and the economical difficulties of the manufacturing system. Out of its 75,000 inhabitants, 25,000 are enrolled as indigent, and needing assistance in one way or another. Here is the budget of the receipts and expenses of an active workman employed in the manufacture of sewing-thread. It is one which he wrote out in a favorable year, that is to say, when he had work:

"I make 2 francs (37 cents) per day; my wife earns for her part, from 10 to 15 centimes (2 to 3 cents) per day; with that we have sustained ourselves and our four little children, for more than ten years. Here are our weekly expenses.

	Francs	Centimes
18 lbs. of black bread at 11 centimes (2 cents) a lb.	5	40
Meat being too dear, we ate the inferior parts of animals (entrails, skins, &c.) at 25 centimes (5 cents) a lb.	0	75
Butter, 1 half only ½ lb. per week	0	50
My wife and my children ate molasses or fruit with their bread	0	80
Potatoes and beans per week, about	1	00
Milk, 1 pint a day	0	35
Rent of a cellar for lodging, nine feet under ground, per week	1	50
Charcoal, consumption a little greater because it was necessary to dry the linen at the fire	1	35
Soap and light	1	10
Total per week	12	75
Or	83	25

We receive from the Bureau of Public Relief six pounds of black bread every fifteen days, and our children get at school some articles of apparel; but in spite of this favor, and in spite of our toil, under pain of being stripped, we live as mendicants, and the law has it so."

Such are the complaints of one of that numerous but little known army of workers in thread, and his history is that of his best days! But when sickness enters that poor family in the person of its head, or when work fails altogether or for two or three days of the week! . . . We observe in this humble budget the article, *a cellar for lodging*. It should be known that a considerable portion of the manufacturing population of Lille live in cellars situated eight or ten feet under ground, and without communication with the houses of which they are a part. These cellars receive air and light only by the door of the stairway which leads to them, and which opens upon the street or wherever the passage way is. Gloomy and damp abodes, of how much misery of all descriptions are ye witness every day! The barbarians who inhabit them are doomed to sufferings unknown to the savage state. Is there a spectacle more frightful than that of these human shades? It is impossible to describe the odious mixture of dampness and infection which constitutes the air breathed by so many poor human creatures. Enter through these dark alleys to the little courts which serve at once as drains and depositories of filth. The doors of a very great number of cellars open on these infected passages. As soon as you enter these little courts, strange groups of children, blanched, crooked, deformed, of pale and frightful hue, crowd around you and beg for alms. The most part of these unfortunates are almost naked. But these at least breathe the open air, and it is only in the depths of the cellars that one can judge of the sufferings of those whom their age or the severity of the season does not permit to go out. Commonly they are all lying on the bare ground, on fragments of the straw of colewort, or the dried skins of potatoes, or on sand. "I am not rich," said an old woman to us, pointing to her neighbor stretched on the damp ground of the cellar, "but I have at least my bundle of straw." There are women who never eat for their entire subsistence more than four pounds of black bread per week; they are so reduced that their bodies are almost transparent. There are thousands of children who are born only to die in protracted agony. According to an official census, out of 21,000 children born in the midst of this population in a given time, *twenty thousand died before the age of five years!* At some distance from this poor quarter is the penitentiary of Lore, occupied by 1,800 or 1,900 prisoners of both sexes. What a contrast! What an air of ease do these fine places wear! One would imagine himself in a palace. Perfect order reigns through the corridor. The beds arranged in order in the dormitories are furnished with good coverings and well aired; the halls in which the prisoners assemble are well lighted, and well warmed; the prisoners are warmly clothed, and wear the appearance of contentment and health; nothing is wanted in the kitchen or store-rooms. Has society such bowels of compassion for those who trouble its repose? And shall it never take under its care the honest poor who cannot earn a livelihood by work?

Reflections crowd upon me in view of such facts, but the picture is not yet finished, and I must defer for some weeks the conclusion of this sad recital. Sad but instructive, and well fitted to fix our attention upon a class of ideas to which Christians of our day give too little place. Awaiting another letter, receive dear friends and brethren the assurance of my cordial regard.

LOUIS B.

The Independent's Comments on the Above.

THE SOCIAL QUESTION.—Our French correspondent has opened a fearful budget in his letter on the first page. We shall leave to him the discussion of the Social problem as it relates to France. But the question is assuming a serious practical aspect in New-York. What shall be done with the Poor? The number of the poor is increasing among us. There are thousands in this city who are miserably poor, ragged, filthy, sickly, crowded in garrets or cellars, without fire, without a bed, dependent on charity for a scanty and precarious subsistence. There are other thousands whose daily labor yields them so scanty a support that sickness or loss of employment would render them penniless and dependent on charity for food, medicine and a home. Yet many of our wealthy citizens have no conception of such a state of things. The merchant whose daily route lies from the Exchange through Broadway to Union-square or the Fifth avenue, may be surprised and incredulous at such a statement. He meets day after day the same impostors, the same blind and crippled beggars, the same haggard and bloated women with borrowed, stolen or tortured children, but he never sees anything like real poverty or suffering. Will such a man believe us when we tell him that a slight advance in the price of flour or of fuel causes distress, distress that is felt in hundreds of families where there is an air of comfort to the casual observer; and that sickness reduces such families to the brink of starvation, and renders them liable to ejectment for the non-payment of rent?

Well, neighbor, if you will call at our office to-morrow, we will engage to show you, within a hundred rods of where we write, a family of five persons who lived last week on *fourteen shillings* ($1 75); a family who have seen "better days," and who have been reduced not by vice, but by misfortune. We will take you to another family of four, where the mother lies sick and helpless on a rude cot, their only apology for a bed, and the farther is unable to find employment: they have pawned little keepsakes and necessary articles of clothing for food, and would have been turned out of doors had we not begged their rent of strangers. We will take you to another—but the stench of the street and court will sicken your stomach, if your heart is not already sick—we were about taking you to a narrow room, six by twelve, occupied by three persons, where honest and frugal industry would pine with hunger and languish under disease did not the hand of charity furnish employment, food and medicine.

You begin to see some signs of poverty. But we have not yet taken you to the painter and the joiner; both once in prosperous business, now reduced, with families on their hands, good workmen, but having only such employment as the kindness of friends may furnish. And we have not attempted to enter, much less to explore, the recesses of poverty and wretchedness in the very heart of New-York. There are multitudes of poor who are not beggars, and yet are liable at any moment to be reduced to beggary.

What shall be done for them? Shall we multiply hospitals and other charitable institutions? That will not meet the case. It would be bad economy to expend all the charity of the community upon institutions expensive in their structure and management and toward which there is a natural aversion on the part of the respectable poor.

Shall we copy the pauper system of England? But though it is the duty of *Society* to provide for the poor, it is not clear to us that this is the duty of the *State*. Beside, pauper-systems are always prodigal of money, and reckless of human sensibility. They perpetuate the evil they are designed to remedy. They become also political engines of the worst description. What we want is a mode of relieving the poor which shall not increase their helplessness and dependence by freeing them from the necessity of labor, and assuring them of the prompt and permanent supply of their wants by public or private charity, but which shall educate them to industry, economy, temperance, manliness, virtue, or shall cherish these qualities where they exist.

How shall this be accomplished? We put the question to Christians. For we maintain that Christians should take the lead in ministering to all the wants of their fellow men—to their temporal as well as their spiritual necessities. It is a reproach to the Church when other associations are in advance of her in any form of practical benevolence. We do not undertake to solve the problem. We can only offer a few suggestions.

Can you not in some way provide employment for the poor? Other things being equal, ought you not to give a share of employment to them rather than to those who are not in pressing need? Employ them too at remunerating prices.

Will not some men of capital erect buildings for the better accommodation of poor families at low rents? The apartments should be commodious, well lighted and ventilated, furnished with closets and other conveniences for domestic purposes, and the building should be supplied with Croton water. The rent should in no case exceed the interest on the cost and expenses of the property, and should even fall below that. In such buildings the respectable and worthy poor could find a quiet, cleanly, comfortable home. Establishments of this description have been recently erected in London, as also bathing and washing houses, on a large scale. We hope to see a similar movement here. Might not some of the outlay upon costly churches have been better expended on such buildings?

Above all, let those who are blessed with abundance visit the poor, ascertain their wants, and give them sympathy and relief in person. This is one of the best modes of recreation for a man of business, after the toils and cares of the day. He who does good only through Societies and by proxy, knows little of the luxury of beneficence.

We content ourselves at present with these hints, trusting that our appeal to Christian philanthropy will not be in vain. If it proves to be so—if Christians, as such, will not move energetically in this matter, then how can we censure philanthropists like our neighbor of *The Tribune* for attempting to accomplish by other means the work abandoned by Christians?

BUILDING SOCIETY.—One of these useful societies has been organized at Newark, N. J. The following are its purposes as summarily stated in its prospectus:

1. To afford more complete and convenient accommodation in their loans, payments, small deposits, and business, to all persons, by loans of small or large amounts, at short or long periods, and upon easy instalment payment.

2. To enable members to procure for themselves a home, or to become possessed of real estate and property, without the large capital usually necessary.

3. To enable them to pay off any incumbrances on their property.

4. To accommodate, by loans and instalment payments, purchasers, owners, mortgagee, or mortgagers of real estate.

5. To assist owners to improve and make productive, or find a market for their real estate.

6. To facilitate selling and buying real estate.

7. To assist tenants in paying their rent, and others having stated or periodical payments to make, for interest, food, provisions, and the like, by receiving deposits, however small or frequent, and allowing interest on the same conditionally.

8. To afford good investments by instalments or otherwise to trustees and guardians, and others, and to parents who wish to endow their children.

9. To encourage savings, and the habits of economy and thrift, by giving a definite object to induce a continuance of such habits until a substantial good is attained.

MURDER.—We learn a man by the name of Jefferson Bates was shot by some unknown person near Kingston, Autauga Co. on the 21st of April. From what we can learn of the case, there was a young woman residing in the neighborhood with whom it is supposed Bates was too intimate, and during one of those infamacies some unknown person, secreted close by in the bushes, shot him. His body was not discovered until the 25th following. Mr. Bates was a man of family, having a wife and eight children. There are some incidents, we learn, connected with this fatal affair, of which propriety at this time prevents us from making public. (Wetumka (Ala.) Guard.

Law Courts.

SUPREME COURT—Before Judge Sandford.—*Samuel Brooks vs. Wm. Judson, Wm. Rider and others.*—Mr. Brooks alleges that he was engaged in the India rubber business at No. 100 Broadway, and that Mr. Judson, claiming to be his partner, confessed judgment, by which his stock was seized and sold, to satisfy claims for damages, alleging that Mr. J. was not his partner, which his denied. To be continued this forenoon.—For plaintiff Messrs Stoughton and Loffer; for defendant Mr. Wm. Judson.

CIRCUIT COURT—Before Judge Hurlbut.—*Benj. Wood and wife vs. Benj. Hunord.*—Action for alleged breach of promise of marriage, which occurred about four years ago. The lady has since become married to Mr. Wood, and the gentleman had previously taken to himself a helpmate. He resides in Orange county, and did so at the time, and the plaintiff in New-York. Several letters were produced, which, it is contended, go to prove a promise; and it was shown that Mr. H. was in the habit of visiting plaintiff on his arrival in town. The parties are respectable, but by no means among the wealthy portion of life. To be concluded this forenoon. For plaintiff, Mr. Wheeler. For defendant, Messrs. Hasbrouck and Boyce.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.—Before Judge Ingraham.—*Theodore Martine vs. Dunning & Dunnigan.*—Action of replevin in relation to some carriages and sleighs, already referred to. Verdict for plaintiff 6 cents and valuing the property at $200.

Before Judge Ulshoeffer.—*Catherine Sayre vs. Christopher Kassebrook.*—Action of trespass arising from a dispute as to the right of an alley way between two houses. Verdict this forenoon.

POLICE COURT.—Two fellows named John Sheridan and Patrick Pew, alias Fisher, were arrested on Monday night by officers Harrigan and Wooldridge, on a charge of having broken into the store No. 46 Chatham-st. and stolen therefrom various articles of gentlemen's wearing apparel valued at $200. A portion of the property was found by the above named officers at No. 32 Centre-st. and the balance at a pawnbroker's shop in Little Water-st. At the latter place were also found a pair of patent leather boots, hot irons, and tools, cases and California caps, for which owners are wanted. The accused were locked up to answer the charge.

BROOKLYN POLICE COURT.—Three boys were arrested yesterday afternoon and held to answer a charge of having entered the store on the corner of State and Columbia-st. and taking therefrom a blue navy pistol and a pistol.—A girl named Margaret Jane Grey, was found guilty of stealing a gold pencil, a ring and bracelet, the property of Mrs. Funk and sent to the House of Refuge.—A few cases of drunkenness, vagrancy, &c. were presented, but discharged with a reprimand to each by Justice Smith.

$100 REWARD—Taken from the door of the subscribers on Thursday afternoon, 3d inst. a small carpet containing 3 pcs black satin Vesting, marked "Nichols, Pierce & Co. Boston." The above reward will be paid for the recovery of the goods, or in proportion for any part of them. RENARD & CO. 118 Pearl-st. my9 1w*

$18,000 TO LOAN on bond and mortgage and valuable building lots for sale; the money to be used in improving the lots, which are well located near the ferry in South Brooklyn. Apply to C. MARTINDALE, 11 Pine-st. my9 1w*

$20,000 TO LOAN—On bond and mortgage, for a term of years on real estate worth double this city, in different sums. Apply to A. J. BLEECKER, Auc'r, 7 Broad-st. my5 1w

30,000 COCOANUTS, for sale. Apply to BECHTEL & SCHOMBURG, 20 Front-st. a7

CHURCH MUSIC.—A lady with a heavy alto voice, who reads music at sight, wishes a situation in a choir where she can obtain a moderate salary. A line addressed to Mrs. J. THOMAS, care of J. S. Redfield, Bookseller, will receive immediate attention. my8 3tead*

SHOW CASES! SHOW CASES!—A very large assortment of all kinds of Show Cases is now on hand at M. J. EARLS, 124 Grand-st. up stairs. Also old cases taken in exchange. my8 1m*

☞ A small flat boat went over the Falls yesterday, having on board 41 New Yorkers, in command of Gilderslieve, the runner. Their destination is California. The boat was built for them at Cincinnati, and had paddle-wheels attached. The party take the broad horn conveyance as far as the Arkansas River. From there they go through Arkansas and Texas. (Louisville Courier, May 3.

FIRE.—The *Denton, Md. Journal* says, the dwelling house, barn, carriage-house, stables, &c. on the farm occupied by Mr. John F. Willis, in the lower District of Caroline County, was consumed by fire on the 1st inst. The property was owned by Mr. Arthur John Willis. The loss of both gentlemen is very great. The fire was communicated from a coal carried into carriage house by a child.

FIRE AT RACINE, MICH.—A fire broke out in Fitch's warehouse on the 1st of May about 11 o'clock at night, which was occasioned with E. C. Tuckerman's. About 30,000 bushels of wheat were burned which was insured for $6,000, warehouse about $6,000; probable loss $40,000. The fire is supposed to have originated from lights in the stores while shipping wheat.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—Loss $40,000.—The dwelling of the late Dr. Rose, at Silver Lake, Susquehanna Co. Pa. was destroyed by fire on the 30th ult. The barn was also burned. The fire is supposed to have originated from the stove pipe. Only one person was at home at the time and most of the rooms were locked up. Little or nothing was saved. The house cost $10,000. No insurance.

MARYLAND GOLD.—The *Rockville (Md.) Journal* says—that Mr. Ellicott has sold his farm to a Company in New-York for $30,000. He has invested $7,000 in the stock of the Company. Arrangements for working the mine will soon be completed.

THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

PRICE OF THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE REDUCED.

PROSPECTUS FOR 1849.

A year of change and convulsion draws rapidly to its close—a year destined to be memorable in the history of Europe and of America. In this country it has witnessed the casting down of that delusive idol which made the mantle of Democracy a cloak for the most audacious crimes against Liberty and Humanity—against Freedom of Thought and of Action—against not-speaking Integrity and fearless Manhood. Come what may in the future, we are justified in believing that the power of a Name over the Nation's impulses and fortunes—the indolent credulity which empowered whatever was called "Democratic" to pass triumphant and almost unquestioned,—has passed away forever. New circumstances will double-as evolve new perils for the country, but the great peril of blind adherence to Party—of government by the potency of words and names—has passed away forever.

Europe, too, has experienced unwonted convulsions, and the signal fires of Freedom, relighted in February by the laborers of Paris, have swept over France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, and been kindled, but only to be quenched, in unhappy Ireland. They still blaze with cheering brilliancy from the watch-towers of dauntless Berlin; they gleam and flash it may be with dying feit surely with glorious radiance from the battlements of heroic Vienna. Throughout the length and breadth of Christendom, there are indications, not to be mistaken, of the stern uprising of the long-abused People against the tyrants who have so long oppressed and crushed them. Happy were it for all if the despots and aristocrats so long gorged with the plunder of unrewarded labor would but seasonably realize that the old sorceries wherewby Nations were lulled to sleep in wretchedness and chains have lost their power, and that Liberty and Justice are now demanded with a unanimity and earnestness which will not be overruled, trifled with, nor turned aside from its purpose. But the Few will not see what the Many have learned of their rights and wrongs; wherefore blood will flow like water and misery and desolation darken the face of the civilized world. But this will not endure. To the tempest and the whirlwind must succeed the calm and the sunshine: From the storm-tossed, deluge-braving Ark of Freedom, the Dove of Peace will soon be loosed, gladdening Earth with the promise of Prosperity and Plenty.

In this season of conflict between antiquated Wrong and still older but long-denied Right, THE TRIBUNE would fain fulfil the part of a faithful chronicler, who ardently holds with the Right yet regards with charitable allowance the champions of the Wrong. For they who struggle against the resistless tide of Freedom and Progress are not demons, are not consciously tyrants nor minions of tyranny, but in their own conceptions upholders of Social Order and of Christian Faith, which this rushing, roaring tide of innovation threatens (in their eyes) to subvert and destroy. So while resisting sternly the claim of portions of our people to arrogate to themselves the designations "Republican" and "Democratic"—plainly implying that those who dissent from their views of the current topics of party controversy are hostile to Republican Liberty—we shall name the less reverence and upbuild those great principles of Democracy and Equal Rights which no abuse, no perversion to sordid, ignoble ends, can ever render other than vital elements of Human Well-being.

The election of TAYLOR and FILLMORE, with the corresponding change in the Legislative Councils of the Nation, strikes a deadly blow at the ascendancy of party names and catchwords, and at the despotism of Party itself. Our course shall be found accordant with the revolution thus effected. Hoping much from the New Administration which the People have decreed, we shall yield it a hearty support so far as our judgment shall approve its acts; but should we find it in any respect unfaithful, we shall not hesitate to expose and denounce its short-comings. We support men for the sake of measures, not measures for the sake of men.

Of the cardinal features of Public Policy advocated by the Whigs, THE TRIBUNE has ever been an earnest advocate. Protection to Home Labor, the comprehensive Improvement of Rivers and Harbors, the abolition of the Hard-Money Sub-Treasury and a return thence to a more rational and beneficent system of Finance, with such modification of our Public Land System as will secure a just diffusion of its benefits to all sections of our Country, all generations of our People—these we have ever heartily approved, and shall still earnestly commend. Yet our ideas of Public Policy are bounded by no narrow horizon of party, but embrace measures which stretch beyond the purview of any existing party. The Right of Man to Labor, and to Land whereon to Labor, a reasonable limitation by statute of the Hours of Daily Toil, the preservation to each family of a Homestead exempt from the grasp of usurer or sheriff—these and other measures of Universal Reform, will from time to time be explained and commended through our columns. And, most imminent of all, the preservation of the Territories nicely added by conquest to our already vast Country from the blasting tread of the slave-dealer and his gangs of human chattels will be pressed upon the understandings and consciences of the American People with the urgency of apprehension and the zeal of intensest conviction.

—During the last year our arrangements for Foreign Correspondence and for Editorial assistance have been considerably extended and improved. We shall endeavor still farther to perfect them. Certainly, no letters from Europe have profited to their readers a clearer insight into the causes and origin of the late astounding revolutions near our have. The proceedings of Congress will be reported expressly for our columns by able correspondents while the most important doings of the several State Legislatures will be fairly presented. In short, we are resolved that no American journal shall exceed the Tribune in the variety, extent or accuracy of its intelligence, while to Literature Poetry and Art we devote all the space that can be spared from the topics of the day.

THE DAILY TRIBUNE

is neatly printed on a fair royal sheet, whereof three editions are issued every day but the Sabbath, in order to supply each subscriber with the latest news possible. It is offered to subscribers by Mail at $5 per annum. It is intended to equal in amount and value of matter any Daily issued on this continent.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE

is issued each Tuesday and Friday, on a sheet of the same size with the Daily Tribune, nearly destitute of advertisements, at $3 per annum, or two copies for $5.

THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE

is printed on a large double [illegible] sheet, making eight pages of six columns each, and containing the choicest matter of the Daily issue, (the correspondence alone costing us several thousands of dollars per annum,) and can hardly be exceeded as a Newspaper by any Weekly in the Country.—It is afforded to those who subscribe singly at $2 per annum; ☞ three copies $5, eight for $10, twenty copies for one address $20—payment in all cases being required in advance. When the term paid for has expired, the paper is stopped; so that no man need fear being annoyed with bills for papers he never read and did not want. Subscriptions may commence at any time.

☞ Clergymen, of all denominations, furnished with the Weekly Tribune at $1 per annum.

GREELEY & McELRATH, 154 Nassau-st.

☞ Notes of all specie paying Banks in the United States are taken for subscriptions to this paper at par. Money enclosed to a letter to our address, and deposited in any Post Office in the United States, may be considered at our risk; but a description of the bills ought in all cases, to be left with the Postmaster. G. & M.

New-York, Nov. 25, 1848.

RECAPITULATION OF THE TERMS

THE DAILY TRIBUNE.

For one copy for a year	$5 00

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE.

For one copy for a year	$3 00
For two copies for a year	5 00

THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE.

For one copy for a year	$2 00
For three copies for a year	5 00
For eight copies for a year	10 00
For twenty copies to one address for a year	20 00

West Chester, Pa. May 3, 1849. my8 2t

FORGERY.—The Discount Clerk of the Bank of Troy was arrested yesterday for forging a draft upon the Cashier, John Paine, for the sum of $6,500. A Mr. Comstock, of Albany, attempted to negotiate the draft at several of the Albany Banks, and at length it was presented at the Albany City Bank, when it was pronounced a forgery by Mr. Kendrick, one of the officers of the Bank. Comstock, the person who attempted the negotiation of the draft, is a jobbert dealer in Albany, and he claims that the Discount Clerk who forged the draft owed him $2,000 for battery tickets, and that the attempt at negotiating the draft was to secure the payment of the debt. It is understood that different sums, to the amount of $1,200, have been taken from the Bank of Troy at different times, and that the Clerk arrested acknowledges having made the abstractions. It is further understood that the principal part of these sums have been spent in the purchase of battery tickets. The offender is a young man, not more than 20 years old, and has hitherto sustained an unblemished reputation. (Troy Budget, 8th.

FIRE IN MEDFORD, MASS.—About 10½ o'clock last night, fire broke out in a small wood house adjoining Mr. Chase's Spot Pond, Medford, occupied by Mr. Chase. This house was speedily consumed, and the flames communicated to the large hotel adjacent, known as the "Spot Pond House," owned by Mr. John Leighton, of this city, and occupied by Mr. Michel. The building, together with nearly every article of furniture, was also wholly destroyed. Engines were promptly on the ground, but their efforts to save the buildings were of no avail. The stable connected with the Spot Pond House was several times on fire, but was saved. The amount of loss is not ascertained, but we understand that Mr. Leighton is insured for $7,000. The fire is supposed to have been purposely set. It will be remembered that the bowling alleys attached to the last named house were burnt on Friday night of last week. The house had just been put in thorough repair for the reception of company the coming season. (Boston Jour. 8th.

ACCIDENT.—A man supposed to be John Cutler, formerly of Rochester, was run over by the cars at Schenectady on Friday morning at 2 o'clock, and instantly killed.

GENERAL NOTICES.

☞ **Fowlers & Wells, Phrenologists and Publishers,** Clinton Hall, 131 Nassau-st. near the Park.

☞ **American Institute—Annual Election.**—An Election for Officers and Standing Committees of the Institute for the ensuing year, will be held on Thursday, the 10th of May, at the rooms of the Institute, 263 Broadway, at which place will be opened at 9 o'clock, P.M. and close at 6 o'clock, P.M.

TRUSTEES.

JAMES TALLMADGE, JOHN D. WARD,
SHEPHERD KNAPP, HENRY MEIGS,
JOHN CAMPBELL, E. T. BACKHOUSE.

Inspectors.

WILLIAM HALL, RALPH LOCKWOOD, JOHN A. HUNTING. my3 4t*

☞ **New-York and New-Haven Railroad Company**—The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the New-York and New-Haven Railroad Company for the election of a Board of Directors and the transaction of other business, will be held in the City of New-York at 34 Cedar-st. on Tuesday the 15th day of May next, at 11 o'clock, A.M.

Polls open from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. The books of transfer will be closed from the 4th to the 16th May, both inclusive.

ROBERT SCHUYLER, President.

New-York, April 25, 1849. a25 W&M:M:p10

☞ **Mrs. M. S. Gove Nichols,** Water-Cure Physician, 46 Lexington-st. Consultations from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

☞ **Water-Cure Institute.**—Dr. TELLE receives patients at his commodious city establishment, 15 Laight-st. one door from St. John's Park, and at Oyster Bay, L. I. He has also competent assistants for outdoor practice. Consultations, verbal or by letter, $1. a25 1m*

☞ **Wigs! Wigs! Wigs!**—Citizens and strangers are informed that the largest, cheapest and best assortment of wigs, half-wigs, curlpieces, bands of long hair and other ornamental hair is to be found at MERMET AUX & HEARD'S, 27 Maiden-lane. The trade supplied. a28 1m

☞ **Gentlemen,** why do you go to those miserable barbers where they only use one hair brush for months together, without cleaning, when you can get your hair cut in the new Spring style at MERMET AUX & HEARD'S, 27 Maiden-lane, and a clean pair of hair brushes lent to each customer! a28 1m

☞ **Liquid Hair Dye.**—BATCHELOR'S inimitable Liquid is the best article in the world for changing red or gray hair to a natural black or brown color without injury to the hair or skin. Persons wishing the best article in the market should call at BATCHELOR'S manufactory, 4 Walker-st. 2d No. 2, near Broadway. Copy the address. a10 TTu 8tf

WANTS.

WANTED—Active young men as agents in the book business to fill vacancies caused by the California emigration. $200 will be loaned to them in working with a capital of clearing $1,000 or more. Each man will have his district, and from $25 to $50 will be required to obtain an outfit. Apply to S. FRENCH, 280 Broadway, Flag of our Union office. Unpaid letters not answered. my9 1t

WANTED IMMEDIATELY, a teacher in a select boarding school near the city. A young gentleman, a graduate of an American college, who has a knowledge of French and vocal music would be preferred. Apply personally or by letter, postpaid, to "Principal," at SPALDING & SHEPARD'S bookstore, 139 Broadway, New-York. my7 2t*

WANTED—A situation by a respectable Protestant young girl, to do the housework of a small family, or to attend baby and sewing. Good reference can be given. To save trouble no notes need be sent. Apply at 4 Twenty-Sixth-st. between the First and Second aves. to the right, first floor, back room. my9 1t*

WANTED—A child to wet nurse. A respectable married lady, who has just lost an infant two weeks old, wishes an infant to wet nurse at her own residence, upon terms. Inquire for Mrs. Manley, Fort Gansevoort, third house east of Eighth-avenue, upper side. References given and required. my7 2t*

WANTED—A man who has been some years in a crockery, China and glassware business, would like to obtain a situation or take a share, or to be employed in selling by the hour, day or week, provided he can make himself generally useful. Inquire at 66 Exchange-place, corner of New-st. a10 1m*

WANTED—By a young widow woman, a situation to take care of children and to do plain sewing, or plain cooking or plain housework of a small family. Inquire in the crockery store, 189 Eighth-st. near Twenty-eight-st. Can be seen 3 days. my9 3t*

WANTED—Situations by two young women, one as cook and to assist in washing, the other as chamber maid, or to do general house work